

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims in the subject patent application as follows:

1. (currently amended) A rubbery polymer having improved properties, which is comprised of repeat units which are comprised of (a) butyl acrylate, or optionally a mixture of butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate containing up to about 40 percent 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, (b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, and ethyl acrylate, (c) optionally, about 0% to about 40% of an alkoxy ethyl acrylate or an alkoxy ethyl methacrylate, (d) acrylonitrile, (e) styrene, and (f) a crosslinking agent; wherein about 1% to about 10% of a monomer containing reactive cure sites selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, glycidyl groups, carboxylic acid groups, and unsaturated cure sites is incorporated into the rubbery polymer, wherein the rubbery polymer is synthesized by a two-step polymerization process, wherein (a) the butyl acrylate, (b) the member selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, and ethyl acrylate, (c) optionally, the alkoxy ethyl acrylate or the alkoxy ethyl methacrylate, (d) a portion of the acrylonitrile (f) the cross-linking agent, and (g) the monomer containing reactive cure sites are polymerized in the first polymerization step, wherein (d) additional acrylonitrile, (e) the styrene, and (f) additional cross-linking agent are polymerized in the second polymerization step, and wherein the second polymerization step is void of methyl methacrylate.

2. (original) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1 which is comprised of repeat units which are derived from (a) about 40 to about 80% by weight butyl acrylate, or optionally a mixture of butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate containing up to 40% by weight 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, (b) from about 5 to about 35% by weight methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, or ethyl acrylate, (c) optionally, about 0 to about 40% of an alkoxy ethyl acrylate or an alkoxy ethyl methacrylate, (d) from about 4 to about 30% by weight acrylonitrile, (e) from about 3 to about 25% by weight styrene, (f) from about 0.25 to about 8% by weight of a crosslinking agent, and (g) from about 1% to about 10% by weight of the monomer containing reactive cure sites.

3. (original) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1 which is comprised of repeat units which are derived from (a) about 50 to about 80% by weight butyl acrylate, or

optionally a mixture of butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate containing up to about 40% 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, (b) from about 3 to about 25% by weight of at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, and ethyl acrylate, (c) optionally about 0 to about 40% of an alkoxy ethyl acrylate or an alkoxy ethyl methacrylate, (d) from about 6 to about 30% by weight acrylonitrile, (e) from about 5 to about 18% by weight styrene, (f) from about 0.5 to about 4% by weight of a crosslinking agent, and (g) from about 1% to about 8% by weight of the monomer containing reactive cure sites.

4. (original) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1 which is comprised of repeat units which are derived from (a) from about 55 to about 75% by weight butyl acrylate, or optionally a mixture of butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate containing up to about 40% 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, (b) from about 5 to about 20% by weight of at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, and ethyl acrylate, (c) optionally, about 0 to about 40% of an alkoxy ethyl acrylate or an alkoxy ethyl methacrylate, (d) from about 10 to about 25% by weight acrylonitrile, (e) from about 8 to about 14% by weight styrene, (f) from about 1 to about 3% by weight of a crosslinking agent, and (g) from about 2% to about 6% by weight of the monomer containing reactive cure sites.

5. (original) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1 wherein the monomer containing reactive cure sites is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl acrylate and hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

6. (original) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1 wherein the monomer containing reactive cure sites is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

7. (currently amended) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1 wherein the monomer containing reactive cure sites is selected from the group consisting of glycidyl methacrylate and allyl glycidyl ether.

8. (original) A rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1 wherein the monomer containing reactive cure sites is selected from the group consisting of dicyclopentenyl acrylate and dicyclopentenylmethoxyethyl methacrylate.

9. (original) A leathery composition which is useful in automotive applications, which is comprised of (1) a thermoplastic, (2) a plasticizer, and (3) a rubbery polymer as specified in claim 1.

10. (original) A leathery composition as specified in claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic resin is polyvinyl chloride.

11. (original) A leathery composition as specified in claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polyolefin.

12. (original) A leathery composition as specified in claim 11 wherein the polyolefin is high density polyethylene.

13. (original) A leathery composition as specified in claim 11 wherein the polyolefin is a metallocene catalyzed polyolefin.

14-20 (cancelled)